

## Coins

# *Delay applies brakes to coin-grading service*

By Roger Boye

**COLLECTORS WHO** want to get their coin-grading disputes settled by an expert from the American Numismatic Association (ANA) will have to wait at least until August.

Governors of the ANA were expected to set up a "grading service" at their February meeting in Colorado Springs, but instead asked the organization's executive vice president to write a proposal for the service and submit it to the board for approval. The next board meeting is during the ANA annual convention in August.

At least one prominent dealer wrote the ANA before the February meeting with questions about the way the grading service would work. The questions apparently did not have ready answers.

"I'm terribly disappointed they (the governors) didn't take action. I thought the grading service would be one of the big things to come out of the February meetings," said Glenn B. Smedley, former ANA governor and now ANA public relations director. Smedley recently moved from La Grange Park to Colorado Springs, where the ANA headquarters is located.

With a grading service, collectors should be able to send a coin to the ANA and for a small fee receive an expert opinion of the coin's condition. The ANA already has received 30 applications for director of the service.

**THE ANA WILL** again provide some scholarships for persons, 11 to 17 years of age, to attend the ANA summer seminar in Colorado Springs.

Seminar participants attend classes taught by specialists in subjects that

could include ancient coins, coin photography, and detection of counterfeit and altered coins.

Scholarships pay for round-trip air fare, room and board, and tuition for the July 9 to 15 seminar. The number of scholarships will depend on the contributions received by the ANA.

To request an application form, write ANA Gov. Florence M. Schook, Box 2014, Livonia, Mich. 48154. Deadline for completed applications is June 10.

**THE UNITED STATES** Mint produced 11.5 billion coins last year, about six times as many as were produced in 1957. Nevertheless, the 1977 total is down by more than a half-billion pieces from the number struck during 1976. The coins, worth \$512 million, were made at the Philadelphia and Denver mints, and on U.S. Mint production equipment located in West Point, N.Y. (the West Point coins do not carry mint marks). The San Francisco Assay Office manufactured the proof and uncirculated sets.

**A TRIBUNE READER** living in Chicago has reported finding a series 1977 \$10 bill with much of the front-side design also printed on the reverse. The error, caused by paper that did not move properly through the printing press, makes a fascinating collector's item.

Meanwhile, two coin newspapers have reported that 1977-D Eisenhower dollars struck on 40 per cent silver planchets have been discovered in Las Vegas, Nev. Of course, normal 1977 dollars made in Denver were struck on copper-nickel planchets containing no silver. Numismatic News says that a major dealer is offering to pay \$2,000 each for the error coins.